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Of publications upon Asia there is but one of importance, the volume of the Pavie Mission devoted to the researches on the Natural History of Eastern Indo-China. With this admirably-illustrated work and the atlas recently distributed the series of the Pavie Mission approaches completion.

I must not omit to mention the three books lately published by Mme. Coudreau, describing her journeys to the River Curua, to the Mapuera, and the Maycuru, each with its illustrative maps, and continuing in this way with rare ability the work so well begun with her husband.

HENRI FROIDEVAUX.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE SOCIETY.

FEBRUARY, 1904.

A Regular Meeting of the Society was held at Mendelssohn Hall, No. 119 West Fortieth Street, on Tuesday, February 23, 1904, at 8.30 o'clock P.M.

Vice-President Moore in the chair.

The following persons, recommended by the Council, were elected Fellows:

Mary Judson Averett. Stephen Avery. George A. Archer.

The Chairman then introduced the speaker of the evening, the Rev. Putnam Cady, who addressed the Society on The Physical and Historical Geography of the Dead Sea Region.

Maps and views were shown on the screen.

On motion, the Society adjourned.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE NEXT MEETING of the Society will be held at Mendelssohn Hall, No. 119 West Fortieth Street, on Tuesday, March 15, 1904, at 8.30 o'clock P.M.

Mr. William Morris Davis, of Harvard University, will address the Society on his Journey in Turkestan.

EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CONGRESS.—Fellows of the Society are reminded that to acquire membership in the Congress

they must apply, with a remittance of Five Dollars, to The Committee of Arrangements Eighth International Geographic Congress,

HUBBARD MEMORIAL HALL,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

The American Geographical Society has invited the Congress to hold sessions in New York under the auspices of this Society on September 13, 14, and 15, and the Committee of Arrangements has accepted the invitation.

This Society is, therefore, actively engaged in arranging for these New York meetings.

The Society has decided to provide for transportation from Washington to New York and hotel accommodation in New York for all the foreign delegates who may be in attendance on the Congress.

The authorities of the American Museum of Natural History have generously offered to this Society for the convenience of the Congress the use of several of their commodious rooms for lectures, and also rooms for the press, for conversation, smoking, etc., etc. They also offer to open all departments of the Museum for inspection by the Congress on the 13th of September, and to entertain the members on that day at luncheon.

The Director of the New York Public Library has kindly consented to arrange an exhibition of the interesting and valuable geographical material in the Lenox Library, and has cordially invited this Society and its guests, during the session of the Congress, to examine the Lenox collections.

The American Geographical Society hopes to arrange a steamboat excursion on the 15th of September to Fishkill-on-the-Hudson, where, on the hill behind the town, Mr. William M. Davis, of Harvard University, will explain to the Society and its guests the problem of the peneplain, particularly well marked at this point.

On the return from Fishkill it is hoped that opportunity will serve for a stop at West Point to take advantage of the courteous invitation extended by Col. Mills, Superintendent of the Military Academy, to inspect the workings of that famous institution.

SEÑOR FERNÁNDEZ DURO, President of the Royal Geographical Society of Madrid, notes, in the *Boletín* for Oct.-Dec., 1903, the erection of a monument at Nootka, last August, with the following inscription:

VANCOUVER AND QUADRA
MET HERE IN AUGUST 1792
UNDER THE TREATY BETWEEN
SPAIN AND GREAT BRITAIN
OF OCTOBER 1790.

ERECTED BY THE
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
AUGUST 1903.

Vancouver's is now the more familiar of the two names here recorded, but until about the year 1860 *Quadra and Vancouver's Island* kept its recognized place on the maps of North America published in the United States. As the association seems to imply, the relations of the two explorers were altogether friendly. The story is told in H. H. Bancroft's *Northwest Coast* (History of the Pacific States, Vols. XXII-XXIII), though the author takes the unwarrantable liberty of writing Quadra's name *Cuadra*. Reform so applied, if admitted, would multiply without end the million confusions of history.

The full name of the Spanish captain was Juan Francisco de la Bodega y Quadra, and Bodega Bay, California, is another monument to his memory.

AN UNKNOWN ANIMAL.—The *Bulletin* of the Bordeaux Commercial Geographical Society, for the 7th of March, publishes a letter written at Njolé, in the French Congo, on the 12th of January, by Father Trilles. This letter tells of an amphibious animal reported to exist in various parts of the country, very ferocious, larger than a hippopotamus, and variously known to the natives as the *river elephant*, the *water tiger*, the *river tiger*, etc.

Father Trilles had been on the track of the monster for three years. Twice the animal had been found asleep on the sand and the Father had been called to see him, but too late.

At another time a sergeant of tirailleurs had wounded one of these beasts, but it managed to make its escape. Two had been killed elsewhere, but the hungry natives had eaten them like the missionary on the plain of Timbuctoo.

Father Trilles gives this description of the creature: His coat is of a tawny grey with black spots, the hair coarse, the tail is long and strong, the paws are short and broad and armed with very sharp claws, two and a half or three inches in length, like those of a tiger.

The animal lurks near the waterfalls and preys upon the women and children and goats. It even attacks the crocodile; evidently an indiscriminate beast.

Not the least remarkable thing in the Father's letter is the familiarity of the Congo natives with the tiger, an animal not found in Africa.

THE SAINT PETERSBURG ACADEMY OF SCIENCES has offered a reward for information concerning Baron Toll, of whom nothing has been heard since he started for Bennett Island in the New Siberian group, in 1902.

THE METRIC SYSTEM IN THE BRITISH EMPIRE.—A Parliamentary paper summarizes the replies from Colonial Governors to the circular sent from the Colonial Office, in 1902, with regard to the adoption of the metric system.

The system is already in use in Mauritius and the Seychelles.

The adoption is favoured by Australia, New Zealand, the Cape of Good Hope, Transvaal, Orange River, Southern Rhodesia, Gambia, Northern Nigeria, British Guiana, Trinidad, the Leeward and Windward Islands (except Barbados).

Sierra Leone, Southern Nigeria, Ceylon, and the Falkland Islands favour the system, but wait for its adoption in the United Kingdom or in the Empire.

Hong Kong would act in common with other Colonies.

New South Wales, Victoria, and Western Australia are favourable, but hold, with South Australia and Tasmania, that the matter is one for the Commonwealth.

Fiji and British New Guinea would go with Australia.

Jamaica and British Honduras wait for the adoption of the system in the United States.

The Straits Settlements and Labuan would follow India, of which nothing is said.

St. Helena, Cyprus, Lagos, Wei-hai-wei, Barbados, and the Bahamas do not approve.

The Gold Coast and Queensland would accept the system, expecting inconvenience.

Natal waits until the British Government has agreed upon some legislation.

Newfoundland, Malta, and Bermuda have not definitely pronounced, and Canada has made no reply.